



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

## PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1

### ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



## CAMP NEWSLETTER



July 2010

Camp Web site: [www.suvcwaz.org](http://www.suvcwaz.org)

### Minutes of the May 15, 2010, Camp meeting:

Location:  
Hometown Buffet  
1312 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, Az

Senior Vice-Commander David A. Swanson called the meeting to order at noon. There were 19 Brothers and guests in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jerry Bloom gave a brief report on Picacho Peak State and the fact that it is on the Civil War Preservation Trusts ten most endangered battlefields. Jerry indicated that there was a possibility that the park would stay open (and as this newsletter is being written, the report is that it will stay open).

**Graves Registration Officer's report:** Jan Huber supplied the following information regarding his activities as our Camp Graves Registration Officer:

- 1 submission of additional information for updating an initial registration; Greenwood Memory Lawn, Phoenix
- 4 submissions of initial registrations, Greenwood Memory Lawn, Phoenix
- 111 total initial registrations submitted since appointment began
- Have established a collaborative relationship with John Potenza, SCV Arizona Division Graves Registrar. When he finds a Union Soldier he sends the information to me and likewise, when I find a Confederate Soldier, I send the information to him.
- Have established a liaison with Pat Richardson of the Yavapai Cemetery Association.
- March 2, 2010: attended Sun City Civil War Roundtable Meeting
- March 14, 2010: participated in the reenactments at Picacho Peak State Park;

- served as a bugler assigned to the Commanding Officer
- March 28, 2010: participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cemetery Walk at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park. I portrayed Union Bugler James Gaston Henshaw.
- May 4, 2010: attended Sun City Civil War Roundtable meeting.

Once again, Brother Huber is to be thanked for all the activities he has done representing our Camp!

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Bob McFarlane did an outstanding portrayal of General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. The timeline was early in the 1900's and the general was invited to attend our meeting by another famous Civil War veteran Captain Winfield Scott, founder of Scottsdale, AZ. Both had served with distinction at the Battle of Gettysburg.

After giving a very informative talk about himself and his actions before, during, and after the Civil War, the general took questions from the Camp Brothers.



General Joshua Chamberlain



Bob did such an outstanding job that Senior Vice-Commander David Swanson was heard to exclaim, “It is like being in the presence of General Chamberlain.” Now, how he knows what that is really like has still to be determined, but:

A great round of thanks goes to Rev. Bob McFarlane in his fine portrayal!



### In memory of Brother Courtright

Brother, (Father) Morris Courtright, 80 years old, passed away peacefully on May 29, 2010. Father Courtright, a Catholic priest, and retired Air Force major, served two terms in the Arizona State Legislature. Morris, who had many other accomplishments, lived in San Manuel, AZ.

## Cemetery Walk at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park

By Jan Huber

The Pioneer & Military Memorial Park in Phoenix conducted its third historical walk on May 28th. The park comprises seven historic cemeteries that were in use between 1884 and 1914.

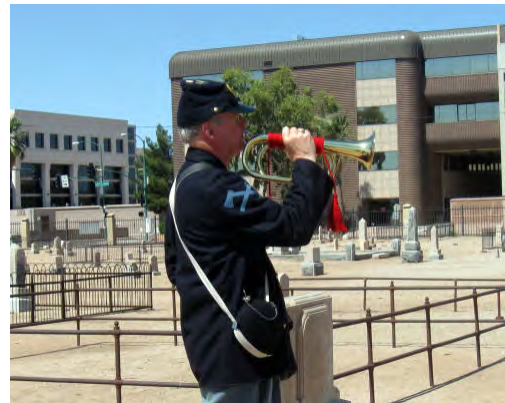
The walks are sponsored by volunteers from the Pioneers’ Cemetery Association where certain graves are showcased. The volunteers research the selected graves and give a talk about them in period dress. One hundred and six confirmed Civil War soldiers (84 Union and 26 Confederates) are buried in the cemetery; many of the Union soldiers were Phoenix GAR members.

I participated in the walk and portrayed James Gaston Henshaw who was a Bugler in Company F of the 4th Iowa Cavalry during the Civil War. He is

buried in the Rosedale Section of the cemetery. As part of my monologue on his life I demonstrated the Civil War Bugle call for Retreat. No doubt he had to sound this call. I know of one battle he was in where he was shot in the back.



Bugler James Gadsden Henshaw (left back row) and early Phoenix pioneers



Brother Jan Huber as bugler James Henshaw

(Above photos contained in: “Ghosts spring into bloom in Phoenix’s early cemeteries” May 28, 2010 *Houston Examiner*)



### Camp meeting dates for 2010

OK, get your calendars out and start marking them with our 2010 meeting schedule.

All meetings will start at noon at the Hometown Buffet, 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, Az on the following dates (the third Saturday of each month)

August 21

November 20

Our speaker for the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be Brother Jan Huber. Jan will give a presentation regarding his office as Graves Registration officer and information about the Phoenix Pioneer & Military Park.

## Quiz

In the battle of first Bull Run, the Army of the Potomac was commanded by:

- a) General P.G.T Beauregard
- b) Brigadier General Irvin McDowell
- c) Major General George B. McClellan
- d) General George G. Meade

Well, this was a tough one since we all know that General Douglas McArthur was the commander. Actually, the answer is Beauregard. McDowell commanded the Army of Northeastern Virginia.



## Bloedner Monument

The Bloedner Monument, the nation's oldest Civil War memorial, was removed in DEC 08 from Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville Kentucky and taken to a temporary facility where it was professionally conserved to arrest further damage. "The removal of an important monument from a national cemetery is rare and was not undertaken without great deliberation," said VA Secretary Shinseki. "However, the overwhelming significance of the Bloedner Monument and its failing condition warranted this unusual step." The monument was carved in January 1862 by Pvt. August Bloedner to commemorate his fellow soldiers of the 32nd Indiana Infantry, all of them German immigrants who fell in the Battle of Rowlett's Station near Munfordville, Ky. The monument's original location was on the battlefield, marking the graves of 13 soldiers who perished there. When most of these remains were removed to Cave Hill National Cemetery in 1867, the Bloedner Monument was moved there as well.

The monument was fabricated from St. Genevieve limestone, with a base of Bedford limestone added in 1867. It measures approximately 5 feet long, 1 foot deep and 3 ½ feet high. The monument is carved on one side with a relief of an eagle and an inscription in German in a rustic script. The text was approximately 300 words and 2,500 characters long at the time it was carved. Because of the poor quality of the limestone and effects of the environment, the monument has lost a significant amount of material. Only about 50% of the original carving and inscription remains. The monument was temporarily relocated to a University of Louisville facility for treatment while VA conducted a thorough evaluation of potential sites. The evaluation process included written proposals and site visits. VA posted information on the Internet, mailed information to Veterans and Civil War heritage groups and held a

public information meeting to solicit suggestions. A new monument, with an interpretive sign explaining the significance of the original Bloedner Monument and indicating its location, will be placed at Cave Hill National Cemetery in 2010.

VA historians, in collaboration with the Kentucky Heritage Council and Heritage Preservation Inc., selected the Frazier International Museum as the new home from three interested facilities based on Civil War exhibit plans, controlled environment and security, financial stability, annual visitation and proximity to Cave Hill National Cemetery. The Museum brings history to life through live interpretations by costumed interpreters, multimedia presentations, educational programming and hands-on learning. Covering 1,000 years of history, their collection is housed in a 100,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility at 829 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202-2619 Tel: (502) 753-5663 or (866) 886-7103. They are open throughout the year Mon thru Sat 0900 - 1700 & Sun 1200 - 1700 except holidays. Admission Rates (without audio tour) are \$9 adults; \$8 military; \$7 seniors (60+); \$6 children under 14 and students with I.D; and no charge for children under 5. For details about exhibits and services offered refer to [www.fraziermuseum.org/about.asp](http://www.fraziermuseum.org/about.asp). [Source: VA News Release 30 Dec 09 ++]



## Historical Sketch of the John W. Owens Post No. 5, Phoenix, AZ

By David A. Swanson PCC

In the last five newsletters, with the exception of the April 2010 edition, I have published newspaper articles regarding the John W. Owens Post No. 5 (83), Phoenix, AZ, which covered the time period from its inception in September 1885 through October 1, 1887. These articles not only give a historical sketch of the Post but also that of the city of Phoenix, and the territory (and state) of Arizona..

The following is a continuation of the articles that are found in the *Historical Sketch of the John W. Owens Post No. 5, Grand Army of the Republic, Phoenix, Arizona* (which was compiled by me and contains articles originally printed in the *Daily Phoenix Herald* and its successor newspaper the *Arizona Republican*).

If you remember, we last left our "Grand Army boys" on October 1, 1887, while they were attending the GAR National Encampment in St. Louis.

October 7, 1887:

THE VALLEY AT ST. LOUIS

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Our Commissioners Still at Their Posts

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Phoenix Becoming Known,

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St. Louis, October 2, 1887.

Ed. Herald: - I find that it is one thing to promise to write frequently and another to perform. During the past week so much has been crowded into the hours that I have but little recollection of writing anything and I doubt whether any thing I wrote was intelligible. From nine o'clock each morning until three or four the next, was I somewhere among the veterans, and the burden of my song among them was the Salt River valley, and that glorified. At the Department Headquarters at the Laclede Hotel, I was on duty several hours each day, and during the week we passed out to our guests nearly 500 cases of wine. Of course California hospitality was lavishly praised and I was not far behind in assuring all that Arizona is as yet a part of the Department of California, and that the Salt River valley can and does produce wines as fine if not finer than those we were drinking; and although the headquarters of the Department area broken up and all of its officials gone except myself, we still have on hand a quantity of that wine for the delectation of those we meet during the present week. The wine so lavishly given out at headquarters, was the contribution of several large wine houses in California and the only cost to us was the expense of the parlor in the hotel and a waiter to serve it.

When not at the headquarters of the Departments, I passed around among the various headquarters and reunions. At no place save the headquarters of the Loyal Legion was their lavish hospitality. At the latter place there was champagne galore with all trimmings. Although a guest at that place and unable to assume any of the credit of the entertainment, I was able to form the acquaintance of many estimable and financially solid gentlemen who are on the lookout for investments and were much impressed with the opportunities therefore presented by our valley. At Armory Hall Col. Johnstone did splendid work. He found many anxious inquirers and the folders went off like hot cakes. Of 3000 but 500 are left. A couple of boxes of pamphlets came Friday. Those we have mostly left but will put out this week at the Exposition and Fair.

The mineral exhibit from Arizona which was at the New Orleans Exposition is here, and will be placed permanently in the exposition building to the right of the main entrance. It comprises some twenty-seven large show cases of fine mineral samples, of which, but about one-third will be now unpacked. Next year all will be displayed. We are arranging to put up there our large map of the Salt River valley, and leave it permanently. I have not much space to write anything of the encampment proper and its doings. We sat down severely on politics and politicians of both parties and the proposed service pension bill we knocked into smithereens. I don't see any sense in the man who served only ninety or 100 days being put on the pension rolls on the equality with the man who served three or four years. The new Department of Arizona will be knocked in the head. The Posts from Prescott and Flagstaff sent on delegations who represent that if the Department is insisted on they will abandon their charters and be disorganized. The new Commander-in-Chief has promised to refer the matter to a vote of all the posts in Arizona and unless unanimously in favor of the Department, he will revoke the order establishing it.

Allen T. Bird.

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St. Louis, Oct 8, 1887.

Editor Herald: - Our work at St. Louis now being finished Col. Johnstone and I start this evening for Chicago, where we have some additional arrangements to complete with railway lines leading out of that city. We have been very successful here in accomplishing all that we came to do, and a good deal more. We have not only made a good arrangement for excursion travel to Phoenix with the Missouri Pacific railway, but have also got under way negotiations with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe that will result in the same facilities being given excursions on that line as are to be extended by the Missouri Pacific Company and connections. The Missouri Pacific have agreed to make the Salt River valley a feature in advertising their excursions, and to that end will devote a couple or more pages in their folders to a descriptive allusion to the valley, and have already instructed those working up their excursions to advertise the valley in the connection. California excursion tickets will be good for stop over at Maricopa in order to allow the holders to visit Phoenix and if wished to return east from Phoenix instead of going to California. The ticket will be made good for passage between Phoenix and Maricopa. This arrangement we think a remarkably good one and equal to the excursion ticket to Phoenix direct. A direct rate cannot be secured for the reason as

too many places are asking a direct excursion ticket that the railway companies feel that they can make no such distinction; but the arrangement we have made will answer the purpose without putting a charge of favoritism for our town upon the railway companies. At Chicago we expect to get the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis line into the arrangement, for their Kansas City connection will force them to some such arrangement, or they will see the St. Louis and the Missouri Pacific and Wabash Western getting all this excursion travel. That they cannot afford to do, and as they also run direct from Chicago to St. Louis they can probably be induced to put on the excursion ticket in conjunction with the Missouri Pacific.

Both Col. Johnstone and myself feel that we have done all that we were sent to do and much more; but our efforts are not yet relaxed and we more; but our efforts are not yet relaxed and we shall continue our labors in the interest of Phoenix and the Salt River valley until long after our return home.

September 3, 1887:

G.A.R. meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday in each month at Masonic Hall.

Geo. F. Coats, Post Commander

W. M. Breckenridge,  
Adjutant

November 23, 1887:

Card to the Public

Ed. Herald – As a member of the relief Committee of the J. W. Owens Posts 83 G.A.R., it is my duty to call upon our late comrade, Mr. C.A. Converse, during his last illness. In the performance of that duty comrade Converse gave me his name, rank and regiments that the record of our Post might be correct in the event of any inquiry by surviving relatives or friends. If the dying man made false statements as to his rank, as is assumed by the GAZETTE this morning, this correspondent (whether he was even a corporal or not) is in no sense to blame. I would as cheerfully have written him a Major General as a private had he so declared.

Respectfully,  
J. E. Wharton  
Surgeon, J. W. Owens Post No 83, G.A.R.

December 8, 1887:

G.A.R. Tonight

Quite a number of visitors came in on this morning's train.

*Editor's note: This ends accounts for the 1887 year. Notice that the newly created Department of Arizona, actually a Provisional department, was only a footnote in the news article and the department was almost dead on arrival since the Flagstaff and Prescott Posts had some real concerns about being part of the Arizona department.*

*The Provisional Department of Arizona was created by Special Order Number 118, issued from National Headquarters, by Commander-in-Chief Lucius Fairchild, on September 10, 1887.*

*In the next newsletter we will start with information for 1888, stand by for some more real interesting historic information!*



## Civil War Veterans

No other citizens deserve so well of the Republic as the veterans, the survivors of those who saved the Union. They did the one deed which if left undone would have meant that all else in our history went for nothing. But for their steadfast prowess in the greatest crisis in our history, all of our annals would be meaningless, and our great experiment in popular freedom and self government a gloom failure. Moreover, they not only left us a united nation, but they left us also as a heritage the memory of the mighty deeds by which the Nation was kept united. We are now indeed one nation, one in fact as well as in name; we are united in our devotion to the flag which is the symbol of national greatness and unity; and the very completeness of our union enables us all, in every part of the country, to the glory in the valor shown alike by the sons of the North and the sons of the South in the time that tried men's souls. . . .

-President Theodore Roosevelt

Excerpt—Message first session Fifty-seventh Congress  
[p. 590] 1902



## Memorial Day ceremonies at Pioneer & Military Memorial Park

By David A. Swanson PCC

The Memorial Day ceremonies held at the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park certainly gave credit to our Civil War veterans (all 125 of them buried in the Park) as well as veterans from all of our wars and conflicts who gave their “last full measure of devotion.”

Hundreds of spectators and veterans observed the ceremonies conducted by the Arizona Civil War Council, the Southwest Civil War Association, the Masonic Order, and many other groups.



I was proud to represent our Camp by giving a speech that outlined the history of Decoration Day; the activities of the Phoenix GAR post during Memorial Days past; the Gettysburg Address, and its idea and meaning which encompasses all of our country’s struggles, past and present.



Brother Jan Huber also represented our Camp by playing taps and setting up an information booth about the SUVCW.



This was the 27<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day observance put on the Pioneer’s Cemetery Association and as usual they did a great job.



### General John A. Logan’s Memorial Day Order General Order No. 11 (excerpt)

“The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit...”

### Address Change

Brothers, if you change your address, *e-mail address*, or phone number, please advise our Camp Secretary Jerry Bloom at your earliest convenience. This will ensure that you get the National publication *The Banner*, our Camp newsletter, and additionally, this will enable us to contact you.

## CAMP MEETING

Please plan on attending our next Camp meeting: Saturday August 21, 2010, at high noon.

Take a break this summer and join your fellow Brothers!



### Past Camp Commanders

Larry Fuller 1995-2003  
David A. Swanson 2003-2006  
Robert Hannon 2006-2008



### Camp Officers for 2010

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**Eagle Scout Coordinator:**

Zander Vessels (Junior Vice Commander)

**Signals Officer:**

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